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New Mexico Labor Market Review

TONEY ANAYA, GOVERNOR
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DEPARTMENT
Imogene Lindsay, Secretary
Volume 15, No. 7, August 29, 1986
Prepared by
Economic Research and Analysis
P.O. Box 1928
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103
(505) 841-8645

HIGHLIGHTS

New Mexico's unemployment rate was 9.5 percent in July, remaining in the mid-nine percent range reached early this year. The number of unemployed was estimated at 65,200, 1,200 lower than June's seasonal peak but 6,000 more than this time last year. The national jobless rate in July was 7.0 percent (not seasonally adjusted).

According to estimates based on a sample of employer payrolls, total nonfarm employment in New Mexico fell by 4,200 jobs in July. Hiring took place during the month in construction, lodging places, health and recreational facilities, and in membership organizations (largely at summer youth camps). However, these gains were more than offset by job declines in government and mining. The usual summer furloughs were reported by public schools and state-supported higher educational institutions (classified respectively in local and state government). Oil & gas extraction again lost jobs during the month, resulting in a nine-year low employment level for the industry. Some scattered job losses were also reported in retail trade and non-durable goods manufacturing during July.

The areas in New Mexico with the highest unemployment rates continue to be the rural northern counties; however, areas with the largest increases in jobless rates over the last year in almost all cases are counties which have experienced significant mining layoffs. Taos County's already high unemployment rate jumped from 18.0 to 27.8 percent over the last twelve months, mainly due to the February closure of the Molycorp molybdenum mine at Questa. Heavily oil dependent Lea County saw its normally low unemployment rate skyrocket from 6.2 to 15.1 percent, as plummeting oil prices severely contracted employment in the domestic petroleum industry. Likewise, in San Juan County the jobless rate rose from 14.8 to 19.0 percent due to the oil problems. Layoffs at a major coal mine contributed to the jump in Colfax County's unemployment rate from 7.8 to 11.5 percent over the year.

JULY SUMMARY

	Prel.	Revised		Change From	
	July 1986	June 1986	July 1985	June 1986	July 1985
Civilian Labor Force	687,400	685,900	646,700	+1,500	+40,700
Employment	622,200	619,500	587,500	+2,700	+34,700
Unemployment	65,200	66,400	59,200	-1,200	+6,000
Rate	9.5%	9.7%	9.2%		

ESTIMATED NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT (JOBS)
(Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

NEW MEXICO	PRELIM JUL 1986	REVISED JUN 1986	REVISED JUL 1985	JUL CHANGE FROM JUN 1986	JUL CHANGE FROM JUL 1985
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT 1/	520,200	524,400	516,500	-4,200	3,700
MINING	15,000	15,300	20,300	-300	-5,300
Metal Mining	2,300	2,300	3,100	0	-800
Bituminous Coal, Quarrying etc	3,700	3,700	4,100	0	-400
Oil & Gas Extraction	9,000	9,300	13,100	-300	-4,100
CONSTRUCTION	38,400	38,100	38,600	300	-200
MANUFACTURING	37,300	37,300	37,400	0	-100
DURABLE GOODS	24,400	24,200	24,600	200	-200
Lumber & Wood Products	2,800	2,700	2,600	100	200
Machinery(except electric)	2,500	2,500	2,900	0	-400
Elec & Electronic Equip	6,700	6,600	6,600	100	100
Transportation Equipment	4,100	4,100	4,200	0	-100
Other Durable Goods	8,300	8,300	8,300	0	0
NONDURABLE GOODS	12,900	13,100	12,800	-200	100
Food & Kindred Products	4,400	4,300	4,100	100	300
Textile & Apparel	2,300	2,400	2,200	-100	100
Other Nondurable Goods	6,200	6,400	6,500	-200	-300
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	27,300	27,000	29,100	300	-1,800
TRANSPORTATION	11,800	11,900	12,100	-100	-300
Railroad Transportation	2,400	2,400	2,400	0	0
Trucking & Warehousing	5,900	6,000	6,100	-100	-200
Other Transportation	3,500	3,500	3,600	0	-100
COMMUNICATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	15,500	15,100	17,000	400	-1,500
Communication	6,700	6,300	7,300	400	-600
Elec, Gas, & Sanitary Services	8,800	8,800	9,700	0	-900
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	128,800	128,900	123,600	-100	5,200
WHOLESALE TRADE	23,000	23,100	23,200	-100	-200
Durable Goods	13,800	13,800	13,800	0	0
Nondurable Goods	9,200	9,300	9,400	-100	-200
RETAIL TRADE	105,800	105,800	100,400	0	5,400
Bldg Material & Mobile Homes	5,000	4,900	4,800	100	200
General Merchandise Stores	12,500	12,600	11,000	-100	1,500
Food Stores	15,700	15,400	14,600	300	1,100
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	13,100	13,200	13,100	-100	0
Apparel & Accessories	5,600	5,700	5,400	-100	200
Furniture & Furnishing	4,300	4,400	4,400	-100	-100
Eating & Drinking Places	37,800	37,900	35,700	-100	2,100
Miscellaneous Retail	11,800	11,700	11,400	100	400
FINANCE, INSURANCE, & REAL ESTATE	26,400	26,500	26,000	-100	400
Banking	8,300	8,300	8,400	0	-100
Insurance Carriers	3,300	3,300	3,400	0	-100
Insur Agents, Brokers & Service	2,800	2,900	2,700	-100	100
Real Estate	6,500	6,500	6,300	0	200
Other Fin, Ins & Real Estate	5,500	5,500	5,200	0	300
SERVICES	119,800	118,800	116,700	1,000	3100
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	13,200	12,900	11,900	300	1300
Personal Services	5,700	5,700	5,800	0	-100
Business Services	27,500	27,600	26,800	-100	700
Health Services	27,500	27,300	27,200	200	300
Legal Services	4,200	4,100	3,800	100	400
Educational Services	3,300	3,400	3,400	-100	-100
Social Services	7,400	7,400	7,200	0	200
Membership Organizations	7,800	7,500	7,800	300	0
Other Services	23,200	22,900	22,800	300	400
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	127,200	132,500	124,800	-5,300	2,400
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	29,900	29,900	30,300	0	-400
STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT	97,300	102,600	94,500	-5,300	2,800
State Government 2/	43,400	44,800	42,000	-1,400	1,400
Local Government	53,900	57,800	52,500	-3,900	1,400

1/ Estimates include all full-time and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period which included the 12th day of the month. Self-employed, family workers, household workers and members of the Armed Forces are excluded.

2/ Includes employees of Los Alamos National Laboratory.

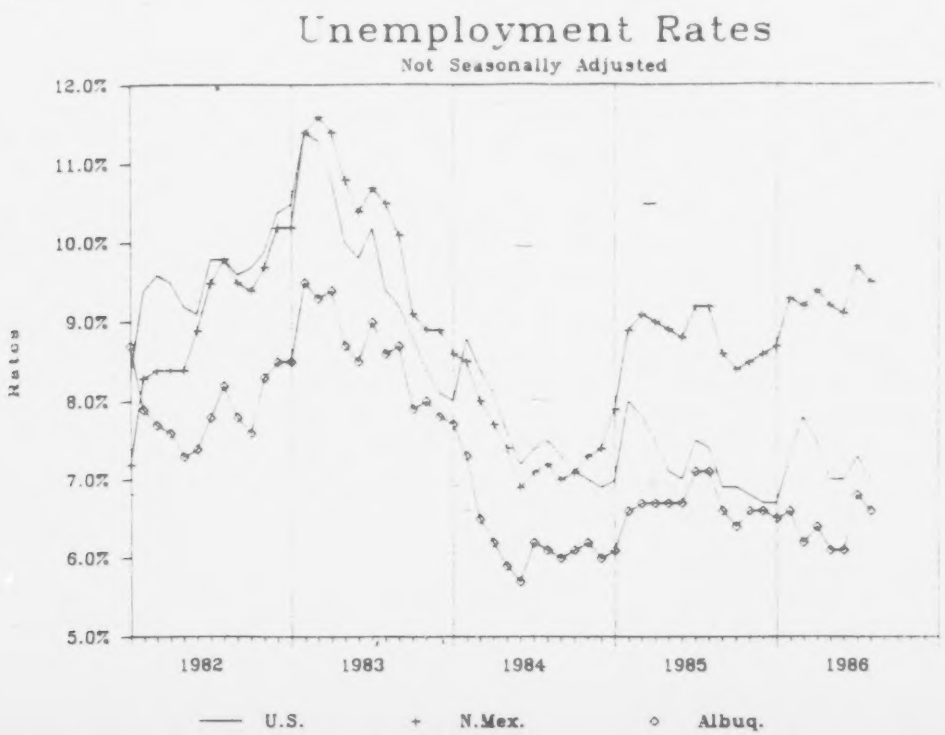
ALBUQUERQUE AREA (BERNALILLO COUNTY)

The unemployment rate for the Albuquerque area declined slightly to 6.6 percent in July, down from June's rate of 6.8 percent and one-half a percentage point below the rate for last July, according to preliminary labor force estimates. A slightly larger than normal drop of 600 in the number of jobless helped push this July's rate downward.

Total nonagricultural wage and salary employment, derived from a survey of local employers, fell by 500 jobs from June to July, a slightly smaller decline than is normally expected at this time of year. Large seasonal losses in state government (the university) and local government (public schools) were partially offset by non-seasonal gains in services and transportation, communication, & public utilities. Additional workers in health care facilities provided most of the growth in services, while the return of striking communications workers to their jobs caused virtually all of the gain in transportation, communication, & public utilities. These two industry divisions normally exhibit little or no growth from June to July. Construction, which normally does add workers in July, showed virtually no change in employment this month. Two industrial divisions which normally lose employees between June and July are manufacturing and finance, insurance, & real estate; but employment held steady in both of these divisions.

There are now 4,900 more nonagricultural wage and salary jobs than in July 1985. Leading all other major groups in terms of percentage increase over the year is hotels & lodging places with 12 percent employment growth. Eating & drinking places leads all other major groups numerically with a gain of 800 jobs. (Other services, shown on the table on page 4 with an increase of 900 jobs, is a combination of seven different major industrial groups). Job losses over the year occurred in communication and electric, gas, & sanitary services, as large employers in these two major groups initiated staff cutbacks to reduce operating costs.

	Prel.	Revised		Change From	
	Jul. 1986	Jun. 1986	Jul. 1985	Jun. 1986	Jul. 1985
Civilian Labor Force	258,100	257,800	240,000	+ 300	+18,100
Employment	241,100	240,200	222,900	+ 900	+18,200
Unemployment	17,000	17,600	17,100	- 600	- 100
Rate	6.6%	6.8%	7.1%		



ESTIMATED NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT (JOBS)
(Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

ALBUQUERQUE MSA (BERNALILLO COUNTY)	PRELIM JUL 1986	REVISED JUN 1986	REVISED JUL 1985	JUL CHANGE FROM JUN 1986	JUL CHANGE FROM JUL 1985
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT 1/	224,000	224,500	219,100	-500	4,900
MINING	300	300	200	0	100
CONSTRUCTION	18,600	18,600	18,700	0	-100
MANUFACTURING	19,500	19,500	19,400	0	100
Durable Goods	13,900	13,900	13,700	0	200
Nondurable Goods	5,600	5,600	5,700	0	-100
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	11,800	11,500	11,900	300	-100
Transportation	5,600	5,600	5,300	0	300
Communication	3,800	3,500	4,000	300	-200
Elec, Gas, & Sanitary Services	2,400	2,400	2,600	0	-200
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	58,100	58,200	56,400	-100	1,700
WHOLESALE TRADE	14,300	14,400	14,300	-100	0
Durable Goods	9,600	9,600	9,600	0	0
Nondurable Goods	4,700	4,800	4,700	-100	0
RETAIL TRADE	43,800	43,800	42,100	0	1,700
General Merchandise Stores	4,700	4,800	4,500	-100	200
Food Stores	5,100	4,900	4,700	200	400
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	4,800	4,800	4,800	0	0
Eating & Drinking Places	16,500	16,600	15,700	-100	800
Other Retail Trade	12,700	12,700	12,400	0	300
FINANCE, INSURANCE, & REAL ESTATE	13,600	13,600	13,400	0	200
Banking	3,200	3,200	3,200	0	0
Ins Carriers, Agents & Brokers	3,800	3,800	3,700	0	100
Other Fin, Ins & Real Estate	6,600	6,600	6,500	0	100
SERVICES	59,700	59,400	57,500	300	2,200
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	3,700	3,700	3,300	0	400
Personal Services	3,000	3,000	3,000	0	0
Business Services	19,100	19,000	18,900	100	200
Health Services	13,500	13,300	13,000	200	500
Social Services	2,900	2,900	2,800	0	100
Membership Organizations	2,000	2,000	1,900	0	100
Other Services	15,500	15,500	14,600	0	900
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	42,400	43,400	41,600	-1,000	800
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	12,900	12,900	12,800	0	100
STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT	29,500	30,500	28,800	-1,000	700
State Government	11,100	11,400	10,700	-300	400
Local Government	18,400	19,100	18,100	-700	300

1/ Estimates include all full-time and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period which included the 12th day of the month. Self-employed, family workers, household workers and members of the Armed Forces are excluded.

ESTIMATED NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT (JOBS)
(Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

LAS CRUCES MSA (DONA ANA COUNTY) 1/	PRELIM JUL 1986	REVISED JUN 1986	REVISED JUL 1985	JUL CHANGE FROM JUN 1986	JUL CHANGE FROM JUL 1985
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT 2/	37,150	39,350	33,450	-2,200	3,700
MINING 3/	0	0	0	0	0
CONSTRUCTION	3,000	2,900	2,600	100	400
MANUFACTURING	3,050	3,150	3,150	-100	-100
Durable Goods	1,350	1,350	1,250	0	100
Nondurable Goods	1,700	1,800	1,900	-100	-200
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	1,250	1,300	1,250	-50	0
Transportation	450	500	450	-50	0
Comm, Elec, Gas & Sanitary Svs	800	800	800	0	0
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	8,150	8,150	7,300	0	850
WHOLESALE TRADE	800	800	850	0	-50
RETAIL TRADE	7,350	7,350	6,450	0	900
General Merchandise Stores	900	900	750	0	150
Food Stores	1,000	1,000	900	0	100
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	800	800	850	0	-50
Eating & Drinking Places	3,200	3,200	2,600	0	600
Other Retail Trade	1,450	1,450	1,350	0	100
FINANCE, INSURANCE, & REAL ESTATE	1,700	1,700	1,600	0	100
SERVICES	5,500	5,450	5,050	50	450
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	650	600	550	50	100
Business Services	950	950	850	0	100
Health Services	1,450	1,450	1,300	0	150
Social Services	350	350	350	0	0
Other Services	2,100	2,100	2,000	0	100
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	14,500	16,700	12,500	-2,200	2,000
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	4,700	4,700	4,700	0	0
STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT	9,800	12,000	7,800	-2,200	2,000
State Government	5,500	6,900	4,500	-1,400	1,000
Local Government	4,300	5,100	3,300	-800	1,000

SANTA FE MSA (SANTA FE & LOS ALAMOS COUNTIES) 1/	PRELIM JUL 1986	REVISED JUN 1986	REVISED JUL 1985	JUL CHANGE FROM JUN 1986	JUL CHANGE FROM JUL 1985
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT 2/	52,450	51,900	51,900	550	550
MINING	100	100	150	0	-50
CONSTRUCTION	3,500	3,400	3,800	100	-300
MANUFACTURING	1,550	1,500	1,550	50	0
Durable Goods	950	900	950	50	0
Nondurable Goods	600	600	600	0	0
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	1,050	1,100	1,050	-50	0
Transportation	350	400	300	-50	50
Comm, Elec, Gas & Sanitary Svs	700	700	750	0	-50
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	10,250	10,100	9,850	150	400
WHOLESALE TRADE	700	700	700	0	0
RETAIL TRADE	9,550	9,400	9,150	150	400
General Merchandise Stores	1,000	950	800	50	200
Food Stores	1,300	1,250	1,300	50	0
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	850	900	900	-50	-50
Eating & Drinking Places	3,800	3,700	3,700	100	100
Other Retail Trade	2,600	2,600	2,450	0	150
FINANCE, INSURANCE, & REAL ESTATE	2,050	2,000	2,000	50	50
SERVICES	13,350	13,200	13,700	150	-350
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	2,100	2,050	1,950	50	150
Business Services	2,900	2,900	2,900	0	0
Health Services	2,600	2,600	2,600	0	0
Social Services	550	550	550	0	0
Other Services	5,200	5,100	5,700	100	-500
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	20,600	20,500	19,800	100	800
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	1,600	1,500	1,700	100	-100
STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT	19,000	19,000	18,100	0	900
State Government 4/	15,200	15,100	14,700	100	500
Local Government	3,800	3,900	3,400	-100	400

1/ In accordance with the CES Manual, those published cells with less than 2,000 employees are rounded to nearest 50. Those published cells with more than 2,000 employees are rounded to 100.
2/ Estimates include all full-time and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period which included the 12th day of the month. Self-employed, family workers, household workers and members of the Armed Forces are excluded.
3/ The employment for the Las Cruces MSA is rounded to fifty. Because employment in this industry is below 25 it appears as zero.
4/ Includes employees of Los Alamos National Laboratory.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS

Hours and Earnings of Production, Construction and Nonsupervisory Employees
(Prepared in cooperation with the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

NEW MEXICO	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS			AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS		
	JUL 1986	JUN 1986	JUL 1985	JUL 1986	JUN 1986	JUL 1985	JUL 1986	JUN 1986	JUL 1985
MINING	$461.33	$525.76	$496.76	38.8	39.8	41.5	11.89	13.21	11.97
CONSTRUCTION	$391.42	$388.08	$374.76	37.6	36.1	36.0	10.41	10.75	10.41
MANUFACTURING	$361.89	$348.69	$332.83	40.3	39.4	38.3	8.98	8.85	8.69
Durable Goods	$366.74	$362.80	$335.04	41.3	40.0	37.9	8.88	9.07	8.84
Nondurable Goods	$312.74	$317.75	$328.94	38.0	38.1	39.3	8.23	8.34	8.37
COMMUNICATION & UTILITIES	$455.87	$504.58	$470.37	41.9	44.3	42.8	10.88	11.39	10.99
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	$223.38	$222.77	$223.78	34.0	32.1	33.5	6.57	6.94	6.68
Wholesale Trade	$393.21	$390.26	$379.85	42.1	39.5	42.3	9.34	9.88	8.98
Retail Trade	$187.66	$190.95	$191.79	32.3	30.7	31.7	5.81	6.22	6.05
BANKING	$218.50	$232.93	$213.95	38.4	40.3	38.9	5.69	5.78	5.50
ALBUQUERQUE MSA									
MANUFACTURING	U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics has been forced to cancel funds for this series due to reductions caused by the Gramm - Rudman - Hollings Balanced Budget Act.								
Durable Goods									
Nondurable Goods									

NOTE: Estimates include all full-time and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period which included the 12th day of the month. Self-employed, family workers, household workers and members of the Armed Forces are excluded. The average earnings are "gross" reflecting not only changes in basic hourly and incentive wage rates but also such factors as premium pay for overtime and shift differentials. The work week information relates to the average hours for which pay was received, and is different from standard or scheduled hours due to absenteeism, labor turnover, part time work, overtime work etc.

Additional Information on State Government Employment

Number of Classified State Govt. Workers

July 1986	15,217
June 1986	15,192
July 1985	15,416

These figures include classified employees working for classified agencies of the executive branch of state government. This information is furnished by the New Mexico State Personnel Office.

U.S.CONSUMER PRICE INDEX
July 1986

CPI-U - 328.0
CPI-W - 322.9

(Base Year 1967 = 100)

CPI-U - All Urban Consumers
CPI-W - Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers

NEW PUBLICATIONS

New Mexico Youth in the Labor Force (published in August 1986). This 74-page report contains economic and demographic statistics and analyses concerning New Mexico's youth and young adults. Included are information on youth population, education, income, employment, and unemployment.

Santa Fe Employer Wage Survey, (published in August 1986). Over 200 local employers participated in this special wage survey conducted to help meet the need for Santa Fe area wage information. The report contains average entry wage, average wage paid, and low/high wages for over 60 different occupations.

Copies of these publications can be obtained at no charge by writing to ER & A Bureau 6097, Employment Security Dept., P.O. Box 1928, Albuquerque, NM 87103, or by calling (505) 841-8645.

AREA ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

ALBUQUERQUE AREA: Groundbreaking ceremonies were recently held for the Paseo del Norte Bridge; the bridge and approaches on either side total 5.3 miles of roadway, will cost about $30 million, and will take about one year to complete. As part of a nation-wide expansion project, Circle K Corp. has purchased property in Albuquerque on which to build five additional stores, which will bring their Albuquerque total to 68. The new Bag & Save Food Emporium has opened near Wyoming and Harper. Presley Co. of New Mexico has begun construction of 260 single-family homes near the I-40-Unser Blvd. interchange. The U.S. Congress has approved a $5 million appropriation for a 30-bed spinal cord injuries treatment center to be housed in part of the old V.A. hospital building; the unit should be in operation by 1989, employing about 100 people. Centre Brands, a specialty frozen foods company, has closed its Albuquerque manufacturing plant, resulting in the layoff of 79 workers. The New Mexico Community Development Council has awarded a $350,000 Community Development Block Grant to the City of Moriarty; the city will use the grant to purchase and develop 40 acres on the east end of Moriarty as an industrial park. Centex American Gypsum Company, which currently operates a plant on Paseo del Norte near I-25, is planning to build a new $20 million wallboard plant near Algodones. When completed in two years, the plant would employ about 100 workers. The firm's gypsum supply is mined near San Ysidro.

ALAMOGORDO / RUIDOSO AREA: Work is underway on a $10 million Astrophysical Research telescope facility at Apache Point in the Sacramento Mountains near Alamogordo. The project is a combined effort of New Mexico State University, the National Science Foundation, and several other universities around the country. The telescope, which will be the 12th largest of its type in the world, is expected to be operational in early 1988. George Thomas Homes has announced the development of a new 250 home subdivision in Alamogordo.

CARLSBAD / ARTESIA AREA: Western-Ag Minerals has announced a two-month shutdown at its potash mining operation near Carlsbad. The shutdown is expected to run from August 10 to October 5 and affect approximately 125 workers. Work has started on the new United New Mexico Bank facility in downtown Carlsbad.

CLOVIS / PORTALES AREA: Reports indicate that the recent refusal by the Interstate Commerce Commission to allow the merger of the Santa Fe and Southern Pacific Railroads could have serious implications for the Clovis area. According to Santa Fe officials, the blocked merger will hinder the company's efforts to compete with the larger railroads and the trucking industry. Santa Fe currently employs 580 workers at its Clovis operation, with an annual payroll of $22 million.

DEMING AREA: Border Foods started up its seasonal chili processing operation in Deming in July, somewhat earlier than in previous years. Border Foods usual employs approximately 500 workers through October processing and packaging chili products.

FARMINGTON AREA: Construction of the Tse Bit'a'i Shopping Center in Shiprock is completed and the two anchor stores have opened. The 42,000-square-foot City Market grocery store now employs about 120 people; the other anchor is a 12,000-square-foot Yellow Front store. When fully leased, the 65,000-square-foot shopping center is expected to provide 150 permanent jobs. The haul road to San Juan Coal Company's La Plata Mine is now open, and trucks are hauling coal from the mine to San Juan Generating Station. There are about 120 workers at the mine. The San Juan Basin Gas Plant near Bloomfield,

Juan Basin Gas Plant near Bloomfield, owned jointly by Conoco, Inc. and Tenneco Oil Company, is nearing completion and will employ 22 workers when in full operation. It will be the largest natural gas liquids extraction plant in the U.S. Four Corners Good Samaritan Center has announced plans to build about 40 retirement condominiums and a club house just north of their present Aztec facility.

GALLUP / GRANTS AREA: Carbon Coal Company has shut down operations at its No. 2 mine south of Gallup, causing the layoff of 70 workers. A skeleton crew of about 30 workers remain at the mine. Castillo's Tortilla Factory has reopened in a Milan facility after a fire forced the closing of their former factory in Grants; the firm's 33 employees were out of work for several weeks. Alternative Bedding Corporation of America, a firm that manufactures cotton mattresses, is seeking Community Development Block Grant money for the purpose of relocating their manufacturing operation from Boulder, Colorado to Grants. If the move materializes, the firm could employ 50 workers in Grants within the next two years. Construction is underway on Giant Industries' new $12 million gasoline isomerization unit. The plant should be completed by mid-January 1987 and will produce high-octane unleaded gasoline. Also, Giant Industries has announced plans to locate an $8 million "travel center" east of Gallup on Interstate 40 which will employ about 200 workers. The center will be a mall-like complex featuring gasoline fueling facilities, restaurants, food store, and other assorted retail outlets. Navajo Forest Products Industry has announced plans to begin manufacturing modular homes at its mill in Navajo beginning next February, creating 200 jobs. Many of those jobs will be filled by current sawmill workers who will be displaced by the sawmill modernization project. Railroad engineers currently working out of Gallup will be relocated to Belen beginning October 1; union-management negotiations are continuing with regard to other classes of railroad workers.

HOBBS / LOVINGTON AREA: Sterling-Cordell, a Utah firm, is negotiating for the purchase of the former Famariss Refinery north of Hobbs from Southern Union. Sterling-Cordell plans to reopen the facility and initially hire between 75 and 100 workers. The refinery has been closed since August 1984. Work on the $33 million ARCO carbon dioxide processing plant in Denver City is scheduled to begin by September according to Hudson Engineering Inc. officials, the prime contractor for the project. Approximately 300 workers are expected to be employed during the construction of the plant. Oil well drilling activity in the Permian Basin continues to be depressed. Area firms closing during August included Chaparral Services, with 30 workers, Salta PVC, with 5 employees, and Link Rat Hole with 6 workers. Dresser Atlas laid off one half of their 24 worker staff during August.

LAS CRUCES AREA: The Pentagon has chosen White Sands Missile Range (WSMR) as the site of a major research facility for the nation's Strategic Defense Initiative. Three sites within WSMR - near Socorro, Oro Grande and Las Cruces - are currently being considered for the project named the Ground Based Free Electron Laser Technology Integration Experiment. Construction of the facility will take two to three years to complete and involve from 500 to 2,000 construction workers, according to U.S. Army officials. A permanent work force of about 250 is expected for the research operation. Final site selection is expected as early as next April. Plans are underway to locate a new K-Mart store in Las Cruces by next spring. The planned 67,000 square-foot-store will be located in a new shopping center near U.S. Highway 70 and Del Rey Blvd.

LOS ALAMOS AREA: Both houses of the U.S. Congress have approved preliminary funding which would lead to the construction of a new highway between Los Alamos and Santa

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NEW MEXICO LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES 1/

	PRELIMINARY JULY 1986				REVISED JUNE 1986				REVISED JULY 1985			
	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate
STATEWIDE	687,386	622,183	65,203	9.5%	685,943	619,541	66,402	9.7%	646,713	587,534	59,179	9.2%
ALBUQUERQUE MSA 2/	258,068	241,089	16,979	6.6%	257,766	240,182	17,584	6.8%	239,996	222,935	17,061	7.1%
LAS CRUCES MSA 3/	54,078	49,774	4,304	8.0%	57,128	52,579	4,549	8.0%	47,077	42,424	4,653	9.9%
SANTA FE MSA 4/	66,132	62,389	3,743	5.7%	64,205	60,738	3,467	5.4%	61,580	58,309	3,271	5.3%
Catron	1,195	1,071	124	10.4%	1,111	998	113	10.2%	1,083	959	124	11.4%
Chaves	23,926	21,745	2,181	9.1%	23,811	21,657	2,154	9.0%	23,731	21,484	2,247	9.5%
Cibola	9,121	7,333	1,788	19.6%	9,052	7,202	1,850	20.4%	8,597	6,346	2,251	26.2%
Colfax	8,012	7,088	924	11.5%	7,871	6,898	973	12.4%	7,585	6,992	593	7.8%
Curry	17,284	16,166	1,118	6.5%	17,131	16,025	1,106	6.5%	16,372	15,166	1,206	7.4%
De Baca	1,006	913	93	9.2%	934	850	84	9.0%	947	870	77	8.1%
Eddy	22,937	19,676	3,261	14.2%	22,954	19,678	3,276	14.3%	21,953	19,465	2,488	11.3%
Grant	10,359	9,109	1,250	12.1%	10,124	8,972	1,152	11.4%	9,891	8,450	1,441	14.6%
Guadalupe	1,775	1,564	211	11.9%	1,678	1,465	213	12.7%	1,681	1,451	230	13.7%
Harding	560	505	55	9.8%	517	467	50	9.7%	564	526	38	6.7%
Hidalgo	2,491	2,337	154	6.2%	2,435	2,292	143	5.9%	2,510	2,265	245	9.8%
Lea	25,859	21,964	3,895	15.1%	25,928	21,920	4,008	15.5%	26,342	24,711	1,631	6.2%
Lincoln	8,561	8,113	448	5.2%	8,310	7,813	497	6.0%	8,246	7,785	461	5.6%
Luna	5,726	4,867	859	15.0%	5,697	4,770	927	16.3%	5,431	4,505	926	17.1%
McKinley	18,063	15,661	2,402	13.3%	17,808	15,453	2,355	13.2%	16,829	14,281	2,548	15.1%
Mora	1,467	955	512	34.9%	1,457	944	513	35.2%	1,569	1,194	375	23.9%
Otero	17,776	16,304	1,472	8.3%	17,635	16,207	1,428	8.1%	16,611	15,273	1,338	8.1%
Quay	4,728	4,297	431	9.1%	4,667	4,243	424	9.1%	4,628	4,151	477	10.3%
Rio Arriba	13,011	10,244	2,767	21.3%	13,056	10,307	2,749	21.1%	13,568	11,365	2,203	16.2%
Roosevelt	7,195	6,812	383	5.3%	7,145	6,763	382	5.3%	6,869	6,469	400	5.8%
Sandoval	22,387	20,502	1,885	8.4%	22,413	20,448	1,965	8.8%	21,290	19,439	1,851	8.7%
San Juan	36,242	29,374	6,868	19.0%	36,334	29,314	7,020	19.3%	34,632	29,516	5,116	14.8%
San Miguel	10,098	8,741	1,357	13.4%	9,810	8,499	1,311	13.4%	10,113	8,821	1,292	12.8%
Sierra	2,440	2,306	134	5.5%	2,416	2,253	163	6.7%	2,338	2,131	207	8.9%
Socorro	5,827	5,280	547	9.4%	5,747	5,204	543	9.4%	5,273	4,823	450	8.5%
Taos	10,867	7,847	3,020	27.8%	10,874	7,598	3,276	30.1%	10,986	9,007	1,979	18.0%
Torrance	3,279	2,912	367	11.2%	3,276	2,884	392	12.0%	3,340	2,976	364	10.9%
Union	2,253	2,073	180	8.0%	2,263	2,060	203	9.0%	2,202	2,026	176	8.0%
Valencia	14,663	13,172	1,491	10.2%	14,390	12,858	1,532	10.6%	12,879	11,419	1,460	11.3%

1/ All estimates are made in strict accordance with methodology provided by the U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

2/ Metropolitan Statistical Area - Bernalillo County

3/ Metropolitan Statistical Area - Dona Ana County

4/ Metropolitan Statistical Area - Santa Fe and Los Alamos Counties

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Fe. The highway and its bridge over the Rio Grande are expected to cost between $80 million and $125 million.

ROSWELL AREA: By mid-October, a new Mealmakers' food processing plant should be in partial operation, according to company officials. Initially about 50 workers will be hired at the plant which will process and package vegetables.

SANTA FE AREA: The new Bag & Save Food Emporium, with 400 employees, has opened at St. Michael's Drive and Pacheco Street. Santa Fe Custom Design, a business which equips vans for specialized uses, has begun operations at a facility on Vegas Verdes Drive near Cerrillos Road; when operating at full capacity, there will be about 60 employees. The firm has received an on-the-job training grant of $218,000 from the state Industrial Development Training Committee's In-Plant Job Training Program. Santa Fe's hotel and motel occupancy rate appears to be up between four and ten percent in 1986 compared to 1985, even as more than 1,000 new rooms have been added to the inventory. The operators of Gold Field's mine near Cerrillos have announced the mine will probably close down in the next month or two; the mine has recently employed about 60 workers.

SILVER CITY AREA: Chino Mines Co. laid off 100 workers for a two week period in August while maintenance work was being performed facilities at the copper mine.

TAOS AREA: Larkin Contractors has begun construction of the $1.1 million, 18,000-square-foot medical office building. The project is employing about 30 workers, and completion is expected by the end of this year. Rio Costilla Ski Area is presently undergoing a $3.5 million expansion and improvement program which involves new ski trails, a new chairlift, new snowmaking equipment, and expansion and renovation of lodges, restaurants, and shops. Officials expect the ski area will employ about 60 workers this winter. Red River Ski Area is also in the midst of a major improvement project, involving the installation of eleven new snowmaking guns and a new powerline and cutting of new ski trails. The hotel and motel occupancy rate in Taos is reported to be up 10 to 15 percent over last year.